

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPOR, ETRD, OVIP (EBERLE), UY

SUBJECT: EBERLE VISIT TO URUGUAY

REF : MONTEVIDEO 1048 (U.S. INFO)

1. SUMMARY. WE BELIEVE THE SHORT VISIT OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM D. EBERLE AND HIS PARTY TO URUGUAY APRIL 23-24 WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL IN GIVING CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THE NEW DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF URUGUAY AND HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. AND URUGUAYAN POSITIONS ON A VARIETY OF TRADE MATTERS.

2. WHILE IN URUGUAY, AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND MEMBERS OF THE PARTY MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF LAFTA, HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE GOU CONCERNED WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND THE PRESS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LAFTA REPRESENTATIVES WHO IN ABSENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WERE CORDIAL AND INTERESTED (40 REPRESENTATIVES AND ADVISERS ATTENDED THE MEETING) BUT UNRESPONSIVE, THE PRESENTATION OF THE U.S. DELEGATION ELICITED QUESTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF VIEWS AND POSITIONS ON THE PART OF THE URUGUAYANS. (SUMMARY MEMCONS OF THESE MEETINGS
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HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED IN DRAFT TO THE EBERLE PARTY.)

3. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DISCUSSIONS WAS A WORKING DINNER ATTENDED BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MICHELIN, AMBASSADOR MAGARINOS (THE SENIOR GOU SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN TRADE MATTERS), PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL BANK RICCI AND FIVE OTHER SENIOR GOU OFFICIALS. MEETING WAS BOTH CORDIAL AND FRANK AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT HAD EFFECT OF STIMULATING URUGUAYAN INTEREST IN MTN AND SHOULD IMPROVE CLIMATE FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN DELEGATIONS WHEN MTN NEXT CONVENES. GOU ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT BILATERAL TRADE AND EXPOSITION BY AMBASSADOR EBERLE ON TRADE REFORM ACT AND GENERALIZED PREFERENCES WAS MOST INFORMATIVE AND HELPFUL.

4. WE WERE VERY PLEASED THAT URUGUAY WAS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA BY HIGH RANKING US OFFICIAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS TENDED TO LINK URUGUAY DIRECTLY INTO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE NEW DIALOGUE WITH LATIN AMERICA. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT, GIVEN DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE CURRENTLY DEPRESSING ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND THE FACT THAT RUGUAY WHICH ONCE STOOD HIGHER IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNCILS TENDS OFTEN TO BE SOMEWHAT BYPASSED, CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED. THIS REACTION WAS AMPLY ATTESTED TO BY THE HEAVY PRESS RESPONSE TO THE VISIT PLUS EXTENSIVE ATTENTION GIVEN IT BY RADIO AND T.V.
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